recent amendment of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) 1973, foreign nationals resident outside India are at liberty to make payments to hotels in India either in foreign currency or in Indian currency. Government does not regulate hotel tariff and hotels are free to fix the tariff on their own.

Helicopter service to Garhwal region

3380. SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared a proposal for helicopter service linking the tourist resort of Mussoorie and other places of pilgrim importance, having potential for tourism in the Garhwal region; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the services including the base for the helicopter ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Pawan Hans has entered into an agreement for wetleasing a helicopter to a private agency for operating services in the Garhwal region.

(b) The agency proposes to operate helicopter services on the Rishikesh-Badrinath-Kedarnath sectors with a helicopter based at Dehradun.

Domestic air services in country

3381. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to allow Jet Air to plan domestic services in collaboration with Gulf Air; and

(b) if so, what are the details including its impact on Air India ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The application of Jet Air for grant of an air taxi permit is under examination.

Withdrawal of VOR from Bangalore airport

3382. SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines pilots owing allegiance to the Indian Commercial Pilots Association, have threatened in resort "no to night flying" from and to Bangalore airport following the withdrawal of VOR by HAL from the airport;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Following the withdrawal of VOR by National Airports Authority for replacement with DVOR, Indian Commercial Pilots Association has intimated Indian Airlines that it would not be possible for their pilots to land during night at the "09" end of the runway; however, they would land on the "27" end of the runway provided the prevailing winds are within the permissible limits;

(b) and (c) Instrument Landing System is available on the "027" end of the runway and serves as an additional landing aid. Even on "09" end of the runway there are other navigational aids. Therefore operation of flights at Bangalore is reasonably assured even without VOR. Besides a more reliable form of VOR namely DVOR is expected to be installed by 30th April 1993.

Closing down of business by Hotel Samrat with Indian Airlines

3383. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Hotel Samrat, New Delhi is closing down its business with Indian Airlines for want of